Group work: Regional characterization, opportunities and constraints

More characteristics needs to be added about livestock production systems, soils

**Productivity**

The region is predominantly characterized by small-holder farmers. Land constraint is increasingly growing on account of new land use systems introduced by Government structures.

**Environment**

Agriculture in the region is predominantly rain-fed. It is quite challenging in the sense that climate has been very variable in recent seasons.

**Human**

Farming systems prevailing is lagging behind the need for providing nutrition and consequently resulting in poor health.

**Economic**

In terms of policy Governments are currently actively involved in developing and operationalizing National Agricultural investment Plans (NAIPs).

**Social**

These farmers are very vulnerable to natural environmental shocks. There are certain pillars that shield these farmers from shocks, increase their resilience. Livestock production is one option for cushioning these challenges. Population in the region is increasing fast and other investments in education and infrastructure are not keeping pace.

Different land ownership systems constrain women access to land and what production can occur. In this region decision-making favours men to the disadvantage of women. Farmer organizational structures exist in the region. These however need to be strengthened in terms of capacity.

**Capital**

Constraints and opportunities

Opportunities

Increasing population is leading to increased demand for products and segmentation resulting in particular products thus producing opportunities for different market niches. Also, this has resulted into increased number of youths. Capacity-building to change the youth’s perspective with regard to long-term benefits from agriculture is a growing opportunity. There is need to change attitude and infer the need for engaging in agro-enterprises in the youths. There is need to introduce agro-business initiatives rather than traditional farming in order to entice the youth.

The increasing reduction of trade barriers

There has been an increase in capacity of the Research structure

There are enormous opportunities for resources elsewhere for out-scaling which are not being taken advantage of.

Number of literate farmers growing on account of formalized education agenda.(needs revision/substantiation)

Constraints

* Low levels of skilled researchers in Tanzania. There is a low number of senior scientists. The next generation of research in leadership is weak.
* Commercialization and/ or up-scaling of systems are very difficult because of high heterogeneity of farmer typologies. This makes farmers fail to meet market standards for example.
* Lack of access to credit for smallholders is another constraint which exists for a number of reasons.
* Some of the technologies developed are not acceptable to farmers. The question is, “How do we make them acceptable”. Explore options for risk reduction among farmers, building resilience among farmers. Farmers will take up technologies based on whether they can manage associated risks.(some technologies are not yet acceptable)
* Urbanization is leading to reduced target populations in the rural areas. There is defacto land reform going on. (more markets)